

#### Members

Rep. Charlie Brown, Chairperson  
Rep. Brian Hasler  
Rep. William Crawford  
Rep. Susan Crosby  
Rep. John Day  
Rep. Craig Fry  
Rep. Win Moses  
Rep. Peggy Welch  
Rep. Vaneta Becker  
Rep. Robert Behning  
Rep. Timothy Brown  
Rep. Mary Kay Budak  
Rep. David Frizzell  
Rep. Gloria Goeglein  
Sen. Patricia Miller, Vice-Chairperson  
Sen. Greg Server  
Sen. Kent Adams  
Sen. Beverly Gard  
Sen. Steve Johnson  
Sen. Connie Lawson  
Sen. Marvin Riegsecker  
Sen. Allie Craycraft  
Sen. Billie Breaux  
Sen. Earline Rogers  
Sen. Vi Simpson

#### LSA Staff:

Barry Brumer, Attorney for the Commission  
Ann Naughton, Attorney for the Commission  
Al Gossard, Fiscal Analyst for the Commission

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## HEALTH FINANCE COMMISSION

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### MEETING MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

Meeting Date: October 31, 2000  
Meeting Time: 12 Noon  
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington  
St., House Chamber  
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana  
Meeting Number: 6

**Members Present:** Rep. Charlie Brown, Chairperson; Rep. Susan Crosby; Rep. Craig Fry; Rep. Win Moses; Rep. Peggy Welch; Rep. Vaneta Becker; Rep. Robert Behning; Rep. Timothy Brown; Rep. David Frizzell; Rep. Gloria Goeglein; Sen. Patricia Miller, Vice-Chairperson; Sen. Greg Server; Sen. Kent Adams; Sen. Beverly Gard; Sen. Steve Johnson; Sen. Connie Lawson; Sen. Allie Craycraft; Sen. Vi Simpson.

**Members Absent:** Rep. Brian Hasler; Rep. William Crawford; Rep. John Day; Rep. Mary Kay Budak; Sen. Marvin Riegsecker; Sen. Billie Breaux; Sen. Earline Rogers.

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

### **Call to Order**

Representative Charlie Brown called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

### **Self-Advocates of Indiana**

Representative Peggy Welch told the Commission about a recent meeting that she and Senator Simpson attended with the President and Vice President of Self-Advocates of Indiana (SAI) and informed the members that she was very impressed with the organization and its representatives and thought the Commission would benefit from hearing about the organization.

Darcus Nims, President, SAI, presented the Commission with materials describing the composition and purpose of her organization. (These materials, "Self-Advocates of Indiana" pamphlet, "What We Believe" pamphlet, and "Facts about Self-Advocates of Indiana (SAI)", are on file with the Legislative Information Center, labeled "Exhibit 1", "Exhibit 2", and "Exhibit 3" respectively.) Miss Nims informed the Commission that she has been President of SAI for 10 years, since its creation from a grant from the Governor's Planning Council for People with Disabilities. Miss Nims reminded the Commission that individuals with disabilities have the same hopes, dreams, and wishes as individuals without disabilities but that they just need a little help to achieve those goals. She explained that SAI, which has chapters throughout the state, tries to teach individuals with disabilities how to do things for themselves. Miss Nims related several stories to the Commission concerning individuals, including herself, who had been helped by SAI. She noted that SAI not only helps individuals with disabilities, but also helps business leaders and community members learn how to interact with the disabled. Miss Nims requested that the Commission urge the General Assembly to provide financial support to SAI, in the form of a direct appropriation and tax deductions to businesses that employ disabled individuals, so that the group can continue and expand its programs.

Representative Welch also acknowledged the presence of Mary Beth Mooney, a sponsor of SAI. Miss Mooney echoed Miss Nims' comments regarding the success of SAI and the need for financial support. Representative Welch related a story to the Commission about a young man whose mother had dropped him off at an SAI chapter meeting, thinking of it as a baby-sitting service. After just that one meeting, the young man exhibited many positive changes as a result of the encouragement and support he had received from SAI.

### **Indiana Calcium Initiative**

Representative William Friend thanked the Commission for allowing him to bring this issue before the Commission, commenting on the importance of calcium in our diets, especially due to the change in the average American's diet over the last few decades which has resulted in a calcium deficiency in many individuals, both children and adults. He stated that the government should do what it can to help individuals get enough calcium in their diets, especially in the area of school lunches. Representative Friend informed the Commission that in the 2001 session of the General Assembly he will be introducing the following two measures to help with this initiative: (1) a resolution that each member of the General Assembly will do everything possible to assure that schools offer students a choice of calcium rich foods; and (2) a bill offering pricing preferences to schools for choosing menu items that are calcium enriched. Representative Crosby noted that the Indiana Office of Women's Health, which has as one of its missions the prevention of osteoporosis, should be a part of any statewide effort to increase awareness of the importance of calcium.

Dr. Trent Jones presented the Commission with a handout (Exhibit 4) detailing information on the following topics: (1) health conditions associated with insufficient calcium intake; (2) scientific and medical support for sufficient calcium intake; (3) health care costs related to insufficient calcium intake; (4) membership and mission of the Indiana Calcium Initiative; and (5) elements needed to solve the problem of calcium insufficiency. Dr. Jones stated that education and awareness of the importance of calcium are vital. He stressed the importance of choosing calcium-fortified foods and beverages over non-fortified whenever possible.

In response to questions from Commission members, Dr. Jones stated the following:

- The American Academy of Pediatrics states that calcium is the most efficient mineral in the human diet and that, with the exception of individuals with kidney failure, it is not possible to over-fortify. It is, however, important not to exclude other needed vitamins and minerals from one's diet.
- Although osteoporosis is primarily thought of as a disease that affects women, men are also subject to this condition. The major concern involving osteoporosis is that the condition is now beginning to be seen in younger individuals than in the past.
- Taking calcium supplements on an empty stomach and with Vitamin D helps to aid the absorption of calcium into the bloodstream.
- While carbonated soft drinks in school vending machines cannot be fortified with calcium, schools should be encouraged to offer alternative beverages (e.g, milk, water, and juices) that are calcium fortified.

Senator Gard noted that many women have an incorrect idea, possibly reinforced by corporate advertising, that hormone replacement therapy will protect them against osteoporosis and do not realize that sufficient calcium intake throughout one's life, beginning in childhood, is necessary to fight the disease.

### **Indiana Health Care Consortium**

Representative Charlie Brown and Senator Miller encouraged the Commission members to attend the Indiana Health Care Consortium meeting on November 20, 2000, at 1:30 p.m. in the House Chamber. Representative Brown explained that this meeting would consist of a panel of consumers, insurance executives, and providers presenting their comments and concerns regarding health care policy in Indiana in the 21st century.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, Representative Brown adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:10 p.m.